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PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS
790 BROAD STREET
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MRS. CHARLES T. SCHAEDEL
CLERK-TREASURER

July 7, 1970

SDMS Document



111007

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners
790 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102 Re: Stream Contamination Report
June 1970

Gentlemen:

The following is a report on polluting discharges made during the month into the streams under the jurisdiction of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners:

June 1-31

Violations - City of Newark

On February 6th, 1970, Judgement was entered against the City of Newark, to abate all pollution from the City's Lockwood Street Storm Sewer and Blanchard Street Storm Sewer by May 6, 1970, (three months from date of Order), and the City of Newark was ordered to remove all pollution from the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer by August 6, 1970, (six months from date of Order). As of May 31, 1970, industrial waste continued to discharge into the Passaic River from Blanchard Street and Lockwood Street Storm Sewers and sanitary waste continued to discharge into Second River from the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer. In addition industrial waste continued to discharge into the Passaic River from the Brown Street Storm Sewer, Harrison Ditch Storm Sewer, and the Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer.

The City of Newark is working to construct a new sewer in the Lister Street area. When this sewer is completed, we are informed they will be able to remove the pollution from the Blanchard Street, Brown Street, and Lockwood Street Storm Sewers. The City has also been notified concerning the Harrison Ditch Storm Sewers and the Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewers. Counsel Durkin was directed to amend the Order to include the Harrison Ditch Storm Sewer and Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer.

Construction of the Lister Street area sewer continued during the month of June. Two companies, Commercial Solvents Corp., and the Fairmount Chemical Company, which previously discharged into the Blanchard Street Storm Sewer, were reconnected into the new sanitary sewer, thus reducing the amount of pollution. Problems were encountered such as the elevation of the new sewer interfering with water connections. This slowed the work, until the new administration would take control of the City on July 1, 1970, to approve an extra on construction.

On June 23rd, the Commissioners received a letter from the City of Newark, advising that the regulator gate on the Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer, was set so as to eliminate the pollution. The pollution was, in fact, eliminated as of June 5th, however, subsequent observation indicated that this pollution recurred on June 24th. The Sewer Department was again notified and after investigation they informed the Commissioners, that there was a defect in the regulator chamber and this would have to be reconstructed.

Pollution in the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer continued but the pollution from the Second Avenue Storm Sewer was eliminated. (See Violations and Eliminations). In addition to the sanitary pollution from the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer, the Commissioners traced a spill of oil, on June 12th, to this sewer. The oil spill was further traced to the Columbus Hospital at North 13th, Street. Construction work was being done by the Damon Douglas Company and the oil was traced to this point. The superintendent informed the inspector that someone had opened a valve of an oil tank and the oil mixed with rain water was later pumped to the storm sewer. They were informed this was illegal and not to allow this to happen again.

Some of the pollution from the Brown Street Storm Sewer was traced to the Sher -William Company. The exact source is difficult to locate as it appears to be an underground break. The company is very cooperative and the Commissioners are working with them to isolate the source and eliminate this pollution.

June 1-30

Violation-Charter Bulk Service Inc.-
80 Doremus Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

Chemical liquid waste and washings from tank trailers flow onto ground areas and thence into the Passaic River. On February 28, 1970, an Order To Show Cause, returnable on March 13, 1970 was issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey. The matter is being postponed until July 17, 1970, on consent of Commissioners' Attorney. During a conference held in the Commissioners' office with Mr. Lubetkin, this firm agreed to have the pollution abated by June 1, 1970. This was confirmed in the letter to the Commissioners dated April 20, 1970.

During the month of June, a connection was made into the Newark Sanitary Sewer and one area was piped so that it would drain to the sanitary sewer. As of the end of June, approximately 50% of the waste was entering the Newark System and the remaining 50% was still polluting the Passaic River.

Construction was started on a tank to catch the remainder of the polluting material for pre-treatment prior to discharge to the Newark Sewer. It is estimated that this work will be completed by July 17th. and would eliminate all of the pollution from this company.

June 5-12
22-30

Violation-City of Clifton-Kuller Road Sewer.

The City of Clifton has a low sewer in Kuller Road, which is normally pumped into the line at Hazel Road. The sewer is overloaded and rather frequently there are pump failures which then allows the sewerage to overflow at the manhole in Kuller Road. The sewage flows to a ditch which leads to and pollutes Weasel Brook. The City of Clifton has been notified concerning this intermittent pollution and are aware of the problems caused by the overflow. The Commissioners have been informed, that the City is making plans to reconstruct the sewer and construct a larger pumping station that will accommodate the sewage, thus eliminating the intermittent pollution.

June 1-30

Violation-Crucible Steel Company, Spalding Works, 1000 South 4th Street, Harrison, New Jersey.

A yellowish oily material flows into the Passaic River from a large culvert owned by this company. This company claimed that a number of other companies leased land on an industrial tract owned by Crucible Steel Company, and the polluting material was not emanating from Crucible Steel itself, but from one of the other tenants and therefore the Crucible Steel Company, would not be liable..

The Commissioners maintained that since the culvert from which this material discharges into the Passaic River was owned by Crucible Steel Company, that Crucible Steel Company was liable for any polluting material emanating from the culvert. Since there seem to be a difference of opinion concerning liability the Commissioners instituted suit against Crucible Steel Company. An Order To Show Cause was originally returnable, May 15, 1970, but was postponed to July 17, 1970.

During the month of June, extensive testing was done by this company to locate the source of oil, but all results were negative. However, during the testing period analysis of one source indicated a discharge of sanitary sewage and the Crucible Steel Company was informed of this. As of the end of the month they indicated they would continue work to find the source of pollution.

June 1-30

Violation-Mr. and Mrs. Edelbock, 563 Passaic Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey.

Sanitary and household waste continue to discharge directly into the Passaic River from houseboat docked at this location. Legal action had been previously started by the Commissioners and the Court had issued an Injunction against the Edelbocks on September 24th, 1969.

On May 14, 1970, Mr. Durkin, the Commissioners' Attorney, wrote to the Edelbocks advising them of the Restraining Order and informing them they were not complying with terms of order. Mr. Durkin, also advised that if the pollution was not abated by the Commissioners' meeting of May 28, 1970, he would recommend contempt proceedings. Since the pollution was not abated by the above date and Mr. Durkin was directed to proceed with any legal steps necessary to halt the pollution.

June 1-30 Violation-Fairlawn- Radburn Treatment Plant,
Fairlawn, New Jersey.

The effluent of this plant appears marginal. Of the four samples taken by the Commissioners during the month of June, only one was completely satisfactory the other three were slightly high in either turbidity, C. O. D., or coliform. The plant operator was informed of the results of each analysis.

June 1-30 Violation-Walter Kidde Company Inc., 675
Main Street, Belleville, New Jersey.

The violation of an intermittent polluting material from this company still continues. During the month of June, the Commissioners took 10 separate samples to help this company isolate the source of pollution.

On June 29th. the plant engineer wrote informing the Commissioners that they were working on the problem, and as soon as the last samples were analyzed they will meet with the Commissioners, to discuss the results of the tests and whatever actions would be indicated to halt the pollution.

June 1-30 Violation-City of Orange-Washington Street,
Storm Sewer.

This is an intermittent violation. E. T. Killam, Associates, had originally recommended a complete rebuilding of this sewer to eliminate the pollution, but the cost was considered too high by the City. Instead the City plugged openings and repaired cracks to halt the pollution. They also installed a chlorination station to disinfect that sewage which they were unable to prevent from leaching into the system. For a period of time, samples were satisfactory then samples were intermittently bad as plugs fell out and cracks opened. During the month of June, samples taken on June 3 and June 24, were unsatisfactory, while samples taken on June 10 and June 16, were considered satisfactory.

June 1-30 Violation-Thomas Smith, (Houseboat) 1500
McCarter Highway, Newark, New Jersey

Sanitary and household waste continues to discharge into the Passaic River from this houseboat.

June 1-30 Violation-Tenda-Brand Food, Inc., 176 Saddle
River Road, South Hackensack, New Jersey.

Washings from meat cutting operations are still entering into Feld's Brook from this company. A sewer line is in the process of being laid in South Hackensack to connect to the Lodi Sanitary Sewer. As of the end of June, the sewer to the proposed pumping station near Feld's Brook has been completed. The pumping station must still be built and approximately 200 feet of sewer from the pumping station to the Lodi line will still have to be built. Target date for completion is the end of July 1970. When this sewer is completed the waste from Tenda-Brand Food, Inc., will be connected to the sewer and the pollution of Feld's Brook will be eliminated.

June 1-30 Violation-West Diner, Route 46 & Clove
Road, Little Falls, New Jersey.

This company operates a sewage treatment plant which discharges into Pearl Brook. The effluent from this plant is considered unsatisfactory and polluting.

On February 27, 1970, the Commissioners filed a complaint and an Order To Show Cause by this company was to be heard on March 13th, 1970. This matter was postponed at the request of West Diner, since they had plans to build a sewer from their plant to the Clifton Sewer System. All approvals have been obtained from the City of Clifton and the Township of Little Falls.

The Commissioners were informed by West Diner, that a contract to install the sewer had been given to S. A. Miller, Construction Company. The material has been ordered and they are waiting for this to reach the site. It is expected that work will start in approximately one week and should be completed in September.

June 16

Violation and Elimination- Artic Ice and
Fuel Company, 158 Semel Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey.

Oil in Fleischer's Brook was traced to this company. Investigation revealed that a storage tank was overfilled and approximately 100 gallons of fuel oil ran into a drain, underneath the storage tanks, which empty directly into Fleischer's Brook. The company was directed to halt the pollution and correct the source of pollution so that there would not be a recurrence.

On June 29, the company informed the Commissioners that they have sealed the drain which allowed the discharge to enter into the stream.

June 2
and
June 19

Violation and Elimination-Atlantic Chemical
Corp., 10 Kingsland Road, Nutley, New Jersey.

A red dye in Third River was traced to this company. Investigation revealed a blockage in their sanitary sewer causing an overflow into the storm sewer. The Roto-Rooter people were called and the blockage was cleared at 2:35 P. M. on June 2, the same day, thus eliminating the violation.

Mr. Richardson, plumbing inspector, of Clifton, detected a pollution and traced it to this company. On June 19th. In a letter dated June 29th., from the company, to Mr. Richardson, it was explained that a drum of liquid dye fell from a moving fork lift truck and ruptured directly over the yard storm drain.

June 19

Violation and Elimination- A Baresi,
341 Hudson Street, Hackensack, New Jersey.

A heavy pollution in Westerly Brook was traced to an excavation on former Maywood Chemical Company's property. The inspector found a contractor, pumping stagnant polluting water from the excavation into Westerly Brook. The inspector immediately contacted Mr. Lubetkin, who directed him to have the contractor halt the discharge at once. Mr. Lubetkin, also immediately sent a telegram to the contractor, directing him to halt the illegal discharge.

Violation and Elimination-A. Baresi, (con't)

On June 23rd., Mr. Baresi, wrote to the Commissioners advising them, they have stopped pumping polluting material into Westerly Brook, as per the Commissioners' instructions.

The Commissioners received a letter from several residents of the area thanking the Commissioners and commending Inspector J. Perrapato on his prompt and courteous attention to this problem.

May 27

Violation and Elimination- Dale Brook
Finishing Company, Hollywood Avenue, Hohokus, N.J.

This company has a treatment plant and discharges its effluent into Saddle Brook. The effluent is continuously monitored by the Commissioners. The sample taken on May 27th., had slightly high C.O.D. and the company was informed of this. Subsequent samples taken on June 10, and June 24th., were analyzed and found to be non-polluting.

June 10

Violation and Elimination- G and F Service
Station, 75 East Allendale Ave., Saddle River, N.J.

An employee of this company was seen cleaning the metal filters with a detergent and the resultant discharge, which contained a green color along with the detergent, washed into a storm sewer, thence to Saddle River. The inspector informed the owner that this was a violation and the owner halted this immediately and promised that this would not happen again.

June 16

Violation and Elimination, B.L. Lemke, Inc.,
199 Main Street, Lodi, New Jersey.

During a tour of the river by the Lodi Jaycees, they saw an employee of the B. L. Lemke Company, Inc., discharging the material from barrels into Saddle River. Mr. Van Orden of the Jaycees, requested that pollution be halted and subsequently reported the matter to Mr. Stark, Lodi's Health Director, and Mr. Perrapato, the Commissioners' Inspector.

Violation and Elimination, R.L. Lemke.(con't)

Mr. Perrapato, investigated and reported that the drum storage area was being cleaned and the movement of the drums ruptured some rusted drums and spillage went into Saddle Brook. The material was ammonia and toluene. Mr. Perrapato's opinion was that the whole thing was an accident and would not be repeated.

June 1

Violation and Elimination-Marcal Paper Mills, Inc., Market Street, East Paterson, New Jersey.

An accidental leak of oil from a heater at a fuel pump went into drain No. 7, which thence reached the river. When this was called to the attention of Mr. Clark, he had the pumps stopped at once. The oil was removed from the drain and the seal repaired thus eliminating the pollution by approximately 11:30 A. M., the same day.

June 1-4

Violation and Elimination-City of Newark, Second Avenue Storm Sewer.

Polluting material was being discharged into the Passaic River from a 48" storm sewer at the foot of Passaic Street, North of Oriental Street. The City of Newark was informed of this discharge and their maintenance men, upon checking the situation found stop logs in the chamber of Broadway and Second Avenue had to be replaced. This was done and the violation was halted.

June 1-9

Violation and Elimination, Newark Asphalt Corp., (Napp-Grecco Co.) 1500 McCarter Highway, Newark, New Jersey.

In the manufacture of asphalt this company uses well water to wash the sand. The water thence goes to the settling basins and is discharged into the river. Samples of the discharge have indicated that the settling is adequate but the water, having a temperature of 150°F., was much too hot. The company was informed and they made an connection to dilute the discharge with additional well water cooling it sufficiently, so that the discharge was approximately 80°F, which is satisfactory.

June 12 Violation and Elimination-J. L. Prescott Co.,
27 Eight Street, Passaic, New Jersey.

A break in a line carrying a liquid dish-washing solution spilled and about 150 gallons of this solution escaped. The material entered the river via a yard drain. As soon as the break was discovered at 11:15 A. M., the lines were closed and repairs were made. Repairs were completed the same day.

June 21 Violation and Elimination-Ridgewood Treatment
Plant, Prospect Street, Glen Rock, New Jersey.

During May some samples of this treatment plant effluent were considered marginally polluting. However, four samples taken during the month of June, were all satisfactory.

June 9 Violation and Elimination-Tidewater Realty
Company, 2 Ackerman Avenue, Clifton, New Jersey.

A pump failure at a collection pit allowed industrial waste to overflow and enter a storm drain and thence reach the Passaic River.

The pump was repaired and, in addition, the overflow line was sealed so that if the pump should fail again, the waste will reach the floor of the plant and will be noticed immediately instead of several hours later. This is expected to prevent an recurrence of this type of accident.

June 26 Violation and Elimination-Exaco, Inc.
830 Boylston Street, Brookline, Massachusetts.

A tank truck rolled into Goffle Brook while the driver was attempting to turn his truck around in a parking center at Goodwin Avenue, Midland Park. The Tank ruptured slightly and gasoline trickled into the brook. This continued for approximately 3 hours before the truck was removed and local fireman washed residue gasoline on the banks into the brook.

SPECIAL REPORTS

WHIPPANY PAPER BOARD COMPANY

The Whippany Paper Board Company discharges cooling water into the Passaic River at Clifton. On May 29, 1970, the Passaic Herald News, ran an article which showed a picture of the discharge from the Whippany Paper Board Company and also showing pictures of dead fish in the area. The article stated that this was an example of pollution to the Passaic River.

The Commissioners' monitor all discharges to the river and although a pollution could escape their attention, they are very much aware of the Whippany Paper Board Company's discharge as it is so prominent. Samples of the discharge had previously been taken and were again taken on June 5. The analysis indicated that it was clear and non-polluting, with a temperature of 72° Fahrenheit. Dead fish were visible near the outlet, but when examined, it could be seen that they had been pierced by a sharp object below the gills. Mr. John Sweeney, Plant Engineer for Whippany Paper Board Company, told the Commissioners' Inspectors that many times men and boys kill fish in this area with spears and bow and arrows and then discard them on the banks of the river. The fish are not killed by pollution, as indicated in the earlier Passaic Herald News' article but by people at play.

On June 17, 1970, Passaic Herald News ran another article where they explained the facts.

RICHARDSON CHEMICAL COMPANY

The Richardson Chemical Company is located in Paterson at New Street. They have an 8" corrugated pipe which leads to a catch basin. The intermittent discharge from this company thence flows through an open ditch and enters the Passaic River above the Great Falls, outside the jurisdiction of the Commissioners.

On June 25, Mr. Lubetkin wrote a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection informing them of the suspected pollution from this company and indicating that the Department may desire to investigate further.

CITY OF GARFIELD

A break in the sewer occurred at Passaic Street and Palisade Avenue. Repair work was done on Sunday, June 14th, and at the request of the Commissioners, pumps were installed at two points to pump the sewage around the broken area so the repairs could be made without bypassing any sewage to the river.

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Comments on the Passaic River and its tributaries from the Great Falls in Paterson to the mouth at Newark Bay.

The flow in the Passaic River was below average. Small amount of rain occurred from June 3rd to June 7th, June 13th, June 16th to June 19th, June 22 and June 27th. Generally speaking, the U. S. Geological Survey Gaging Station at Little Falls, showed an average daily flow of 307 cubic feet per second, for June 1970, as compared to 472 cubic feet per second for June 1969. Towards the end of the month on June 29 and 30th, the flow was below 200 cubic feet per second.

The water sampled above the Great Falls at McBride Avenue in Paterson was generally low in quality and only on two of eight samples did it exceed 50% dissolved oxygen. Generally speaking the water improved within the Commissioners' district until the lower reaches of the river at Newark, where the effect of the Newark Storm Sewer overflows appears to be considerable.

The Commissioners were still having trouble with overflows from the Paterson Sewers during peak hours. During the month of June the Commissioners had the Wood Street overflow sealed in order to prevent pollution from entering the river from the Witco Chemical Company. The Commissioners also raised stop planks on the Montgomery Street chamber.

During May there had been a rapid deterioration of Nichols Pond and the pollution was traced to Paisley Products, Corp. This pollution was eliminated at the end of May but residual material in the ground was not cleared until approximately the second week, in June. During June, Nichols Pond and Third River gradually returned to its normal state as the pollution was halted. At the end of June, Third River and Nichols Pond were again normal, with dissolved oxygen in the 90% saturation range.

During the month of June, samplings of the river indicate that an unknown polluting material is entering the Passaic River between Union Avenue, Rutherford and Rutgers Street, Belleville. A second source of pollution is entering from between Rutgers Street, Belleville and Clay Street, Newark. The Sanitation Control Department was directed to concentrate in these areas, taking samples at short intervals in July and August to locate the source of these two pollutions.

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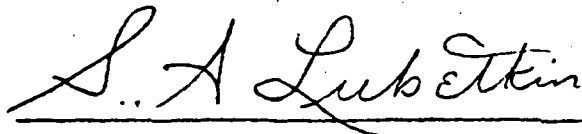
On June 8th a sample of MacDonald Brook, indicated a pollution, but subsequent samples showed this had cleared. The Commissioners will watch this closely.

On June 15th an oily substance on the surface of Henderson Brook was discovered. Samples indicate, that it was flammable and had a boiling point from 130° to 140° C. which is the range of Xylene. The Commissioners could not positively determine the source of pollution although, one company was suspected. The stream cleared itself, and there was no subsequent pollution.

During the month of June, dredging by the Department of Transportation in the Wallington area added to the natural turbidity of the river. This is expected to get worse during August and September as the relocation of the river proceeds.

Generally speaking the Passaic River and its tributaries were satisfactory within the Commissioners' jurisdiction except for that lower end in the City of Newark.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. A. Lubetkin", written over a horizontal line.

S. A. Lubetkin, Chief Engineer

SAL:hw